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RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

RECORD OF DECISION

RMP Implementation Summary

Rangeland Program Summary

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Las Cruces District

Socorro Resource Area

February 1989

BLM-NM-PT-89-004-4410

I 53.2:

Dear Reader:

Greetings from the Bureau of Land Management, Socorro Resource Area (SRA). This document presents information on the recently completed Socorro Resource Management Plan (RMP). The approved plan begins an exciting new chapter in land and resource management that outlines a dynamic philosophy in the way the Bureau will conduct business on public lands. Many of you contributed time and effort in developing the plan, and we look forward to working with you during plan implementation.

This document contains three parts. First, the Record of Decision on the Proposed RMP/Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which concludes over 3 years of land-use planning. Second, the RMP Implementation Summary which describes the action steps necessary to implement the plan. Third, the Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) that documents the Rangeland Management Program for the Chupadera Mesa EIS and the East and West Socorro Grazing Management EIS Areas.

As the Record of Decision states, the Proposed RMP has been accepted as the land-use plan for the SRA, except no decision is being made on the alignment of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) from Pie Town north to the SRA boundary. Also, certain land which was previously designated for disposal will be retained until El Malpais General Management Plan needs are surfaced. The approved plan will be extracted from the Proposed RMP/EIS.

Sincerely,

Harlen Smith

Harlen Smith
Area Manager
Socorro Resource Area

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Record of Decision
on the
Proposed SOCORRO
Resource Management Plan
&
Final Environmental
Impact Statement

February 1989

INTRODUCTION

This document records the decisions of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for administration of approximately 2.3 million acres of Federal sub-surface estate and 1.5 million surface acres of public land in the Socorro Resource Area (SRA).

The SRA encompasses BLM-administered public lands in Socorro and Catron Counties.

DECISION

Proposed decisions are hereby approved as described in the Proposed Socorro Resource Management Plan (RMP)/Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (September 1988), except the specific land disposal area described as T. 4 N., R. 9 W., Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10 and T. 4 N., R. 8 W. Sec. 6 will be retained as needed in support of El Malpais General Management Plan and a portion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) SMA from Pie Town north to the SRA boundary. Only these two areas have been suspended.

This plan was prepared under the regulations for implementing the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 [43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1600]. The EIS was prepared for this plan in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

The approval of the plan also constitutes formal designation of six areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC). ACECs are designated to protect significant resource values in these areas.

The final BLM decisions to resolve the seven planning issues and the two management concerns are summarized below:

- **Issue No. 1 - Land Ownership Adjustments**

Actively pursue consolidated land ownership patterns by acquiring non-BLM lands in acquisition zones, including special management areas (SMA), and disposing of isolated, hard-to-manage public lands located throughout the SRA.

- **Issue No. 2 - Vegetative Uses**

Implement pertinent management actions on the Chupadera Mesa EIS area to maintain or improve resource conditions. These will be directed toward resolving the minor, isolated problems that exist on some allotments. Vegetative land treatments will also be proposed on the Chupadera Mesa EIS area and East Socorro ES area to benefit livestock, wildlife, and other resources.

- **Issue No. 3 - Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Use**

Complete ORV designation implementation plans according to BLM Manual 8341 by FY 91 and begin monitoring. Acquire easements as needed.

- **Issue No. 4 - Access**

Actively pursue the acquisition of legal access into presently inaccessible lands and/or areas where only physical access exists, and the closure and rehabilitation of existing undesirable vehicle routes.

- **Issue No. 5 - Special Management Areas**

Strive to achieve the land allocation management goal stated for each SMA and the management objectives identified in future activity plans. Implement the management prescriptions for each SMA. Complete ACEC implementation plans by FY 91.

- **Issue No. 6 - Wild Horse Management**

Manage the wild horse herd at an average of 50 horses and introduce outside stock to maintain a viable healthy herd. Update the existing Herd Management Plan to reflect changes and management actions needed to meet the above objective.

- **Issue No. 7 - Coal Leasing - Suitability Assessment**

Carry forward 31,640 acres for further consideration for leasing.

- **Management Concern No. 1 - Fluid Mineral Leasing**

Implement the revised fluid leasing stipulations on all future fluid mineral leases.

- **Management Concern No. 2 - Right-of-Way Exclusion and Avoidance Areas**

Commence implementation of the exclusion and avoidance areas for all future rights-of-way.

THE PROPOSED PLAN AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Four alternatives were considered and analyzed in detail in the Draft RMP/EIS (March 1987). "No Grazing" was initially proposed as an alternative, but was eliminated from detailed analysis as it did not meet the BLM requirements that alternatives be feasible, practical, and implementable. However, environmental analysis for the "No Grazing" alternative was conducted and displayed in Appendix D of both the Draft RMP/EIS and the Proposed RMP/FEIS. No other alternatives considered were eliminated from detailed analysis.

PROPOSED PLAN

The Proposed Plan is selected as The Plan. The goal is to resolve the seven issues and the two management concerns by providing for a combination of resource uses that protects important environmental values and sensitive resources while at the same time allows development of resources elsewhere which provide commercial goods and services. This alternative incorporates concepts proposed in both the resource conservation and resource production alternatives as well as actions between the two.

The majority of the Proposed Plan is being accepted except for those areas dealing with the CONST from Pie Town north to the SRA boundary as a result of a protest and certain disposal areas identified in support of El Malpais General Management Plan.

CURRENT MANAGEMENT (NO ACTION) ALTERNATIVE

This alternative describes the current management of the resources affected by the issue questions. As with all alternatives, other resources and programs would continue to be managed according to continuing management guidance. This alternative provides a baseline for comparison of other alternatives.

The management direction for this alternative was derived from existing management decisions and guidance developed in the Divide, Ladron and Stallion Management Framework Plans.

Like the other alternatives, the Current Management Alternative would allow future management to be responsive to changing regulations and policies.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION ALTERNATIVE

This alternative attempts to resolve the planning issues while placing primary emphasis on maintaining or improving environmental values. The outdoor recreation, visual resources, wilderness, cultural, wildlife, watershed, and other resource conservation-oriented programs are emphasized under this alternative. The goal of this alternative is to change present management direction to resolve the seven issues and the two management concerns in a manner that places highest priority on the maintenance or improvement of environmental values. Multiple-use management would continue in areas not emphasized under this alternative.

RESOURCE PRODUCTION ALTERNATIVE

This alternative attempts to resolve the planning issues while placing primary emphasis on making public land and resources available for use and development. The minerals, grazing, ORV, forestry, and similar production-oriented programs are emphasized under this alternative. The goal of this alternative is to change management direction so that the seven issues and the two management concerns are resolved in a manner

that generally places highest priority on the production of resources from the public lands. Multiple-use management would continue in areas not designated for special management attention.

- Management Consideration

The decision to choose the Proposed Plan is based on (1) the need to resolve the seven issues and the two management concerns identified through the planning process; (2) the input received from public land users, other Federal and State land management agencies, as well as State, local, and tribal governments; and (3) the environmental analysis for the alternatives considered.

- Implementation and Monitoring

The approved RMP will provide the framework and guidelines for making specific management decisions for the SRA over the next 20 years. Priorities for implementation of management decisions are contingent upon program funding levels established through the budget process.

Program priorities will shift as budget allocations change in response to new administrative policy, new Department direction, changing resource conditions, or new Bureau goals. Monitoring will be performed to ensure conformance with the Plan and to indicate how effective these measures are in minimizing environmental impacts.

- Public Involvement

Public opinion and input have been sought throughout the planning and decision-making process. Public participation was documented in detail in Chapter 5 of the Proposed RMP/FEIS (September 1988).

An annual RMP summary document will be prepared to inform the public of the progress made in implementing the RMP in a continuing public involvement effort. This document will also provide information on the upcoming year's plans for implementation and explain how the public can become involved in specific land management actions.

- Modifications and Corrections

This section lists those changes which should be made to the Proposed RMP/FEIS and will be carried forward into the approved plan. These are the result of further review by the interdisciplinary team and public comments received.

Chapter 2

Page 2-25. The following information will be added to the Land Ownership Adjustment section.

The following identified lands will be retained in public ownership until the need for these lands is identified in support of management actions in El Malpais General Management Plan, presently being prepared by the BLM Albuquerque District Office:

T. 4 N., R. 9 W., Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 10; and
T. 4 N., R. 8 W., Sec. 6.

If retention of these lands is not identified in El Malpais General Management Plan, then these lands will continue to be identified for disposal in the Socorro RMP.

Chapter 3

Page 3-42, Table 3-15. The total figures for "number of types of game animals using each SHS" are incorrect and need to be recalculated in the approved plan.

Appendices

Page A-6, Wildlife WL-7.3. Insert "on public lands" after "protection fence."

Page L-15. Add a twelfth action step: "Designate as an ACEC."

Page L-31. The existing Continental Divide National Scenic Trail map will be replaced in the approved plan to reflect legend corrections and a slight modification of the route.

Glossary

Page GL-10, Riparian Habitat or Area. Replace the existing definition with "an area of land directly influenced by permanent water. It has visible vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of permanent water influence. Lake shores and stream banks are typical riparian areas. Excluded are such sites as ephemeral streams or washes that do not exhibit the presence or vegetation dependent upon free water in the soil."

- Protest Resolution

One protest was received concerning proposed decisions in the Proposed RMP/FEIS (September 1988). The protest, in general, was resolved except for one point related to the location of the CDNST from Pie Town north to the SRA boundary. This decision was deferred until the CDNST task force provides the final recommended trail location.

CONSISTENCY

No inconsistencies with the plan, programs, and policies of other Federal agencies or state and local governments were identified during the RMP process, including the Governor's Consistency Review.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF THIS DOCUMENT

All those names on the current RMP mailing list will receive a copy of the Approved Plan; in addition, copies will also be available at all BLM offices in New Mexico as well as most public libraries.

CONCLUSION

This Record of Decision constitutes the final Bureau action on approving the Socorro RMP. Any person adversely affected by a decision of the Bureau Officer in implementing some portion of an RMP may appeal such action to the Interior Board of Land Appeals pursuant to 43 CFR 4.400 at the time the action is proposed for implementation.

Larry T. Woodard

Larry Woodard
State Director, New Mexico
Bureau of Land Management

Date: 1/29/89

RMP

Implementation

Summary

Introduction

This section displays the initial action steps scheduled for completion to implement the approved Socorro Resource Management Plan (RMP). Listed beside each implementation step is the page number in the RMP that can be referenced to obtain further information about the action. Initial priorities for implementation have also been determined. It is important to note that implementation priorities are likely to shift on a year-to-year basis during the 20-year life of the RMP according to budget allocations, administrative goals, departmental direction, change in resource conditions and public involvement. An annual RMP report will contain a similar section to identify those implementation steps that have been completed and those scheduled for completion in the upcoming fiscal year. These steps are also identified so the public can become further involved in the implementation of those actions that are of interest.

No.	Implementation Step	Page No. in RMP	*Priority for Implementation
	MINERALS PROGRAM		
1.	Implement Fluid Leasing Stipulations	2-35	High
2.	Continue Coal Leasing Review Process	M-1	High
3.	Restrict Disposals in Coal Area	A-4	Ongoing
4.	Designate Saleable Pits (Sand and Gravel Sales)	A-3	High
5.	Maintain Saleable Minerals Availability	A-3	Ongoing
6.	Rehabilitate MCA Mill Site	A-3	Moderate
	RANGE PROGRAM		
7.	Acquire Legal Access Across Private and State Lands	A-2	High
8.	Develop Sawtooth ACEC Plan	L-13	High
9.	Develop San Pedro ACEC Plan	L-46	High
10.	Develop Harvey Plot SMA Plan	L-47	Low
11.	Develop Soaptree SMA Plan	L-13	Moderate
12.	Establish Study Plots	A-8	Moderate
13.	Establish Livestock Conversion Ratios	A-9	Ongoing
14.	Establish Seeding Trials	4-2	Low
15.	Dispose of Isolated Parcels of Public Land	A-9	Ongoing
16.	Block Lands on 8 Allotments Through Exchange Process	A-2	Moderate
17.	Develop Land Treatment Plans	2-28	Ongoing
18.	Develop AMPs	2-7	Ongoing
19.	Maintain or Improve Range Conditions	2-9	Ongoing
20.	Determine Forage Allocations	2-8	Ongoing
21.	Implement Allotment Categorization	2-7	Ongoing
22.	Implement Grazing Management Systems	2-8	Ongoing
23.	Monitor Utilization	2-9	Ongoing
	WILD HORSE PROGRAM		
24.	Revise Wild Horse Management Plan	2-33	High

No.	Implementation Step	Page No. in RMP	*Priority for Implementation
	LANDS PROGRAM		
25.	Continue Implementing RGORP	2-10	High
26.	Dispose of Public Lands Within the Community of Aragon, New Mexico	A-4	High
27.	Implement ROW Avoidance and Exclusion Restrictions	2-38	High
28.	Implement Land Acquisitions	2-25	High
29.	Implement Clean-up of Luis Lopez Dump	A-3	Moderate
	ACCESS PROGRAM		
30.	Develop Access Plan A	F-3	High
31.	Develop Access Plan B	F-3	Moderate
32.	Develop Access Plan C	F-3	Moderate
33.	Develop Access Plan D	F-3	Moderate
34.	Develop Access Plan E	F-3	Moderate
35.	Develop Access Plan F	F-3	Low
36.	Develop Access Plan G	F-3	Low
37.	Develop Access Plan H	F-3	Low
38.	Develop Access Plan I	F-3	Low
	FORESTRY PROGRAM		
39.	Designate Christmas Tree Areas	A-5	Ongoing
40.	Develop Woodland Management Plans	A-5	Moderate
41.	Implement "No Woodcutting" Restrictions in Moderate or High Erosion Areas	A-1	Ongoing
	FIRE PROGRAM		
42.	Develop Fire Management Plans	A-8	High
	SOILS/WATER PROGRAM		
43.	Develop Road Maintenance Plan (Ladron)	A-2	High
44.	Develop Watershed Plans	A-2	Moderate
45.	Reduce Erosion on Allotments	A-2	Moderate
46.	Monitor and Restrict Activities on Critical Erosion Areas	A-6	High
47.	Develop Water Monitoring Plans	A-7	Moderate
48.	Develop Fence Lake SMA Plan	L-23	High
49.	Develop Puertecito SMA Plan	L-21	High
50.	Develop Stallion SMA Plan	L-18	High
	WILDLIFE PROGRAM		
51.	Develop Aqua Fria ACEC Plan	L-9	High
52.	Develop Ladron ACEC Plan	L-3	High
53.	Develop Horse Mountain ACEC Plan	L-15	High
54.	Develop Walnut Canyon SMA Plan	L-34	Moderate
55.	Develop Iron Mine Ridge SMA Plan	L-46	Moderate
56.	Develop Taylor Canyon SMA Plan	L-47	Moderate
57.	Develop Pelona Mountain SMA Plan	L-6	Moderate
58.	Conduct Wildlife Studies	A-5	Moderate
59.	Develop Land Treatment Plans	A-5	Moderate
60.	Construct Antelope Panels	A-3	Low
61.	Continue Habitat Protection	2-16	Ongoing

No.	Implementation Step	Page No. in RMP	*Priority for Implementation
	WILDLIFE PROGRAM (Continued)		
62.	Develop Prescribed Burn Plans	A-5	Low
63.	Develop Design/Modify Livestock Grazing Management Practices	2-18	Ongoing
64.	Implement Fencing Standards	2-19	Ongoing
65.	Continue to Develop Escape Ramps	2-18	Ongoing
66.	Ensure all Power line Construction is "Electrocution Proof"	2-18	Ongoing
67.	Protect and Enhance Riparian Habitat	2-18	High
68.	Continue Fire Suppression in Riparian Habitat	2-18	Ongoing
69.	Continue to Develop Water for Wildlife	2-17	Ongoing
70.	Acquire Non-Public Lands to Support Wildlife Program	2-25	High
	CULTURAL RESOURCES PROGRAM		
71.	Develop Tinajas ACEC Plan	L-25	High
72.	Develop Ft. Craig SMA Plan	L-28	High
73.	Develop Rio Salado SMA Plan	L-41	Moderate
74.	Develop Town of Riley SMA Plan	L-43	Moderate
75.	Develop Mockingbird Gap SMA Plan	L-44	Moderate
76.	Develop Mogollon Pueblo SMA Plan	L-43	Moderate
77.	Develop Newton Site SMA Plan	L-40	Moderate
78.	Develop Zuni Salt Lake SMA Plan	L-49	Moderate
79.	Develop Teypana SMA Plan	L-38	Moderate
80.	Develop Playa Pueblos SMA Plan	L-40	Moderate
81.	Continue to Manage Archeological Sites	2-19	Ongoing
82.	Continue to Complete Cultural Resource Survey	2-20	Ongoing
83.	Continue to Nominate National Register Sites	2-20	Ongoing
	Recreation/ORV Program		
84.	Acquire Non-Public Lands in Ladron	A-1	High
85.	Develop CDNST SMA Plan	L-30	Moderate
86.	Develop The Box SMA Plan	L-36	Moderate
87.	Develop San Lorenzo Canyon SMA Plan	L-44	Moderate
88.	Develop Cerro Pomo SMA Plan	L-11	Moderate
89.	Develop Datil Well SMA Plan	L-32	Moderate
90.	Implement ORV Designations	2-29	High
91.	Coordinate Management of San Lorenzo	A-3	Moderate
92.	Close Datil Well Campground to Woodcutting	A-4	Ongoing

* High = To begin implementation in FY
Moderate = To begin implementation in 2 to 5 years.
Low = To begin implementation later than 5 years.
Ongoing = Continue to implement.

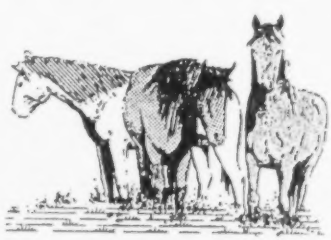
Acronyms: ACEC - Area of Critical Environmental Concern
CDNST - Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
RGORP - Rio Grande Occupancy Resolution Program
ROW - Right-of-Way
SMA - Special Management Area

Rangeland Program Summary

This Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) briefly describes the Socorro Resource Area's (SRA) Rangeland Management Program for the East Socorro Grazing Environmental Statement (ES), the West Socorro Rangeland Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and the Chupadera Mesa EIS.

The objective of the SRA Rangeland Management Program is to manage the rangelands in an efficient manner by providing effective management to those allotments where it is needed most to maintain, improve, and monitor the range conditions.

The Program as presented in this document is outlined into three parts corresponding to each EIS area. The first part will describe from the Proposed Socorro Resource Management Plan (RMP) the strategy in resolving the Vegetative Uses issue as it pertains to the management of grazing on 121,270 acres of public land within the Chupadera Mesa EIS area. The second and third parts provide the updated report of the progress or status of the East Socorro and West Socorro Rangeland Management Programs.



Chupadera Mesa EIS

INTRODUCTION

The Chupadera Mesa EIS was written in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and in response to litigation in the Natural Resources Defense Council et al. versus Rogers C.B. Morton et. al., ref. Case No. 1983-73. The EIS, the last of the three within the SRA, was completed in September of 1988 and prepared through the Socorro RMP planning process.

This section describes the Proposed Plan of the Socorro RMP for the Chupadera Mesa EIS area.

BACKGROUND

Livestock grazing is authorized on 12 allotments with a total grazing preference of 28,008 animal unit months (AUMs) of use on approximately 121,270 acres of public land. Presently, 500 AUMs are allocated to wildlife.

An inventory completed in 1985 provided a current view of each allotment's resource condition and identified problems and conflicts. Existing public land conditions by allotment are shown in Table III-1. Some of the recommended management actions involving the construction of rangeland improvements and brush control are shown in Table III-2.

THE PROGRAM

The specific goals and objectives of the Program will be accomplished through careful planning at the activity plan stage, giving attention to proper placement of rangeland improvements, distribution of livestock, kind and class of livestock, suitable grazing systems, plant and animal requirements and vegetative land treatments.

Because current range condition and management are satisfactory, and there are no known resource conflicts, the allotments have been placed in the Maintain ("M") category, with no adjustments in grazing use being made. The isolated problem areas that do occur within some allotments will come under the Improve ("I") category designation and be subject to the management actions prescribed. These problems are minor and isolated within pastures.

New allotment management plans (AMPs) may be developed on seven allotments. Specific management actions and the level of intensity will depend on the objectives and problems that are identified. The suggested management actions will be designed to minimize or reduce the existing minor problems of uneven livestock distribution, weed control, and shortage of permanent water.

The "I" category allotments will receive first priority for AMP development. AMP development on "M" and Custodial ("C") category allotments will be considered if additional information indicates problems or potential for improvement. The "I" category allotments identified for AMP development will be prioritized throughout the SRA.

AMPs will include a grazing system to provide the vegetative resource with periodic rest from livestock grazing. The type of system to be implemented will be tailored to meet the needs of the allotment and developed in consultation with the allottee.

Existing AMPs will continue to be followed on the Black Hills Ranch and Largo Canyon allotments, unless monitoring indicates that a change in management is needed.

Three of the 12 allotments contain a small acreage of public land. These will be managed nonintensively.

Table III-1
Chupadera Mesa Allotment Condition 1/

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Average Condition Rating	Upward	Static	Downward	Total Acreage
1365	Black Hills Ranch	0	15,650	13,769	0	50.8	27,388	1,250	781	29,419
1366	Dragoo Tank	0	7,719	752	0	60.3	4,788	3,683	0	8,471
1367	Lobo Canyon	0	13,178	838	0	61.0	13,035	261	123	14,019
1368	Chupadera Mesa	5,607	15,828	9,068	0	59.7	28,702	774	1,027	30,503
1369	Lincoln County	0	483	152	0	56.5	306	329	0	635
1370	Cat Mesa East	0	1,463	3,218	0	45.3	4,658	33	0	4,681
1371	Cuate Canyon	0	3,073	597	0	58.4	3,452	218	0	3,670
1372	Largo Canyon	3,191	5,105	2,758	0	63.5	7,658	2,813	583	11,054
1373	Carrizozo	0	6,608	1,751	1,141	51.9	7,528	1,845	127	9,500
1374	Red Lake	0	61	109	0	46.5	170	0	0	170
1375	Harvey Investment Co.	0	652	0	0	62.5	498	154	0	652
1376	Gallacher North	0	5,910	2,587	0	54.9	6,467	2,030	0	8,497
	TOTAL	8,798	75,730	35,599	1,141		104,650	13,980	2,641	121,271

1/ Public land acres only

Table III-2
Recommended Management Actions for
Chupadera Mesa Allotments

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Existing Preference AUMs	Implement AMP	Vegetative Land Treatments (ac)		Pipe-Line (mi.)	Fence (mi.)	Wells (no.)
				Chemical	Burning Mechanical			
1365	Black Hills Ranch	6,696	Revise	450	150	3	8	0
1366	Dragoo Tank	1,968	Yes	640	140	3	4	0
1367	Lobo Canyon	2,762	Yes	100	200	0	5	0
1368	Chupadera Mesa	7,776	Yes	700	240	7	4	1
1369	Lincoln County	132	No	0	0	0	0	0
1370	Cat Mesa East	1,218	Yes	100	100	2	0	0
1371	Cuate Canyon	858	Yes	80	80	0	0	0
1372	Largo Canyon	2,377	Revise	100	150	5	0	0
1373	Carrizozo	2,160	Yes	400	240	0	0	0
1374	Red Lake	48	No	0	0	0	0	0
1375	Harvey Investment	192	No	0	0	0	0	0
1376	Gallacher North	1,821	Yes	200	100	3	4	0

RANGELAND IMPROVEMENTS

Estimated rangeland improvements needed to implement the Program include 23 miles of pipeline, 29 miles of fence, 1 well, 1,400 acres of vegetation manipulation through burning and mechanical treatment, and 2,770 acres of brush control through chemical treatment. These are estimated figures since actual figures will not be available until specific AMPs are developed.

All new rangeland improvements will be required to meet design specifications and procedures and will be completed in accordance with priorities established through benefit/cost analysis.

MONITORING

Rangeland monitoring studies have been established on all allotments. These studies will result in the collection of data gathered over a 5-year period on actual livestock use, utilization of forage species, climatic data, and rangeland ecological condition and trend. If at the end of the 5-year period no problems are noted, collection of the data will revert back to the minimum level established for "M" category allotments.

The intensity and frequency of monitoring will vary according to the management category as shown in Table III-3.

Table III-3
Chupadera Mesa
Minimum Monitoring Levels

	"I"	"M"
Actual Use	Annual	As needed
Utilization	Annual	Every 2 years
Trend	Every 4 years	Baseline gathered
Climate	Annual/ seasonal	Annual/ seasonal
Condition	Every 15 years	Every 20 years

Adjustments in stocking levels or other management practices will be based on these or other studies, and in consultation with the allottee.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of this Program will be in accordance with Section 8 of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act (PRIA), which required consultation, coordination, and cooperation with affected and interested parties.

Consultation will involve the allottee and other interested parties (target group) if they are requested by the allottee. The Target Group consists of landowners, such as the State Land Commissioner or other lessors, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Las Cruces District Grazing Advisory Board, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDG&F), Range Improvement Task Force, Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the Forest Service (FS).

Consultation on the development of management actions will take place within the first 12 months following the Record of Decision for the Final Socorro RMP/EIS on those allotments with isolated problem areas. These allotments will be prioritized for management actions with other allotments of the East and West Socorro Grazing EIS's.

WHAT THE PROGRAM WILL ACCOMPLISH

LIVESTOCK GRAZING

It is anticipated that an increase of 2,270 AUMs will result from the management actions proposed. These actions can aid in improving 15,000 acres of rangeland in fair ecological condition. A long-term increase in improved quality and quantity of forage will result from the improved distribution and vigor. An additional 1,940 AUMs will be allocated for livestock use after wildlife needs are met.

WILDLIFE/WATERSHED

The first additional 330 AUMs that become available will be allocated to wildlife. Presently, there are no problems or conflicts with wildlife. The additional vegetation will also benefit watershed habitat. Further allocations could be made to wildlife if studies indicate an additional need exists. These will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

East Socorro Grazing ES

INTRODUCTION

This annual update of the East Socorro RPS describes the progress made during FY 1988 toward achievement of the goals and objectives of the grazing management program presented in the East Socorro Rangeland Management Program Document (RMPD) of March 10, 1980. This report is the ninth annual update and is presented to inform interested parties of the significant accomplishments during FY 1988.

During FY 1988, efforts in the East Socorro Grazing ES area were concentrated on the collection of monitoring data on Improve ("I") category allotments, rangeland improvement design and construction, and allotment supervision.

DECISIONS

No decisions were issued during the fiscal year.

MONITORING

Actual livestock use, utilization, and climatological data were collected on "I" category allotments. Actual use was collected on all 22 of the allotments. Utilization data was collected on 17 of these allotments. Three of the allotments were in nonuse. Table III-4 shows the "I" category allotments and the studies that were completed on each one.

RANGELAND IMPROVEMENTS

The SRA committed $155,215 for completion of rangeland improvements in the East Socorro Grazing ES area during FY 1988. The allottees contributed $17,050 in the form of labor and materials toward these projects.

The funding was used to complete:

8.0 miles of fence
3.6 miles of pipeline
7,691 acres of brush control
2 storage tanks.

The following improvements are to be completed in FY 1989:

2.0 miles of fence,
2.9 miles of pipeline

The SRA has also proposed for FY 1989 11.5 miles of pipeline reconstruction on the Scott Ranch Allotment. The project will be constructed by contract.

MULTIPLE-USE MANAGEMENT

The wildlife and watershed programs had the following accomplishments during FY 1988.

WILDLIFE PROGRAM

The Wildlife Program continued to monitor past development in the Nogal and Ladrones Habitat Management Plans (HMP) by monitoring browse utilization on permanently established transects.

Vegetation manipulation on 7,691 acres was also completed in the Nogal HMP area on creosote and tarbush to improve antelope habitat.

WATERSHED PROGRAM

The major emphasis in the watershed program was on updating the water-use inventory.

FY 1989

The BLM will continue to collect monitoring data on the 22 "I" category allotments. The data will be used to evaluate each allotment in 1989. supervision of these allotments will also continue, and will include some of the Maintain ("M") category allotments.

The wild horse herd will be inventoried during this year to gather needed information in preparation of evaluation and the amendment to the Eordo Atravesado Herd Management Area Plan in FY 1990.

SUMMARY OF FORAGE CONDITIONS DURING FY 1988

Winter moisture conditions were above normal, which resulted in good spring forb production. Spring and summer moisture ranged from normal in some areas to above normal in other areas, therefore increasing forage production.

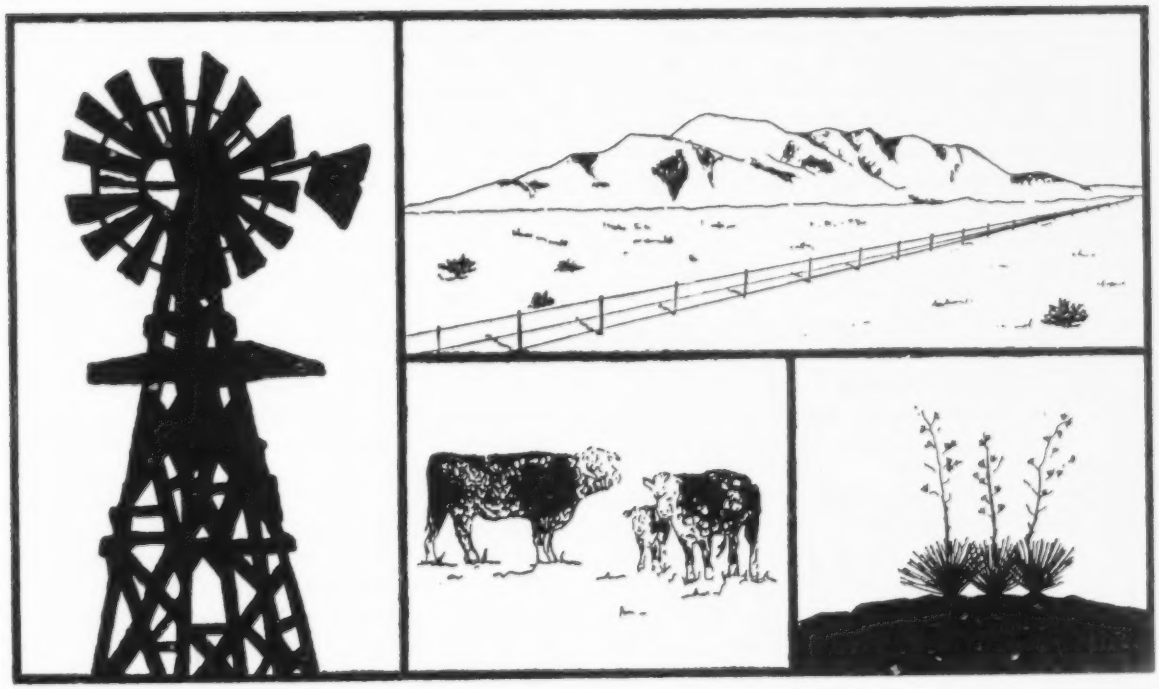


Table III-4
Monitoring Studies Completed on East Socorro
Category Improve ("I") Allotments

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Preference AUMs 1/	Authorized Use AUMs 1/	Actual Use 1/	Utilization 2/
1143	Commanche Arroyo	36	24	Y	NU
1159	La Jencia	1,992	2,002	Y	N
1191	Canada Colorado	720	588	Y	Y
1250	Buffalo Head	144	144	Y	Y
1252	Silver Road	1,607	1,607	Y	Y
1253	Sand Sage	288	240	Y	Y
1254	Bordo Atravesado	2,714	2,714	Y	Y
1255	Bosquecito	312	312	Y	Y
1259	Four Hills	360	422	Y	Y
1262	Las Canas	1,560	1,296	Y	Y
1263	Black Mesa	1,446	1,446	Y	Y
1264	Armijo Community	975	975	Y	Y
1277	San Jose Canyon	1,090	1,104	Y	Y
1278	Anaya Well	348	348	Y	Y
1279	Silver Canyon	1,337	1,337	Y	Y
1280	Tecolote Draw	2,388	2,388	Y	Y
1283	Blackington Mountain	1,572	2,859	Y	Y
1284	Mesa Canyon Well	1,440	1,287	Y	NU
1288	Rio Grande	315	264	Y	Y
1308	San Antonio	290	146	Y	NU
1312	La Arenosa	852	535	Y	Y
1317	San Pedro	285	240	Y	Y

1/ AUMS - Animal Unit Months
2/ Y - Study completed; N - Study not completed; NU - Nonuse

West Socorro Rangeland Management Program EIS

INTRODUCTION

The initial West Socorro RPS was published in February 1983. The document established management guidelines and described livestock grazing decisions reached following the completion of the West Socorro Rangeland Management Program EIS.

The purpose of this RPS is to summarize and describe the events that took place in FY 1988 within the West Socorro Grazing EIS area. This report represents the seventh annual update of the West Socorro RPS.

During FY 1988, efforts were concentrated on the evaluation of monitoring data and the issuance of fifth year decisions or agreements on 36 Improve ("I") category allotments. Rangeland improvement design and construction continued as in the past.

AGREEMENTS/EVALUATIONS

Agreements were issued on 36 "I" category allotments and 124 Maintain ("M") category allotments. Agreements on the "I" category allotments were prepared through consultation and coordination with the allottee and outlined the results of the allotment evaluation and future objectives and goals. Other resource disciplines, such as wildlife and watershed, also participated in the evaluation process. As a result of improved resource conditions, 11 allotments were changed from category "I" to category "M". Table III-5 shows the 36 "I" category allotments that were evaluated, those that were changed from "I" to "M", and the reason for the change (utilization, trend, condition, or other reason). Monitoring data collected since the EIS's completion in 1982 and base line data from studies established prior to this date was used in the evaluation.

The agreements issued on the "M" category allotments were sent in letter form to the allottee. These identified the satisfactory management and condition of the allotment and problems that may have been discovered as a result of the allotment inspection completed the previous year. These allotments will continue to be monitored. The minimum monitoring level for "M" category allotments is shown on Table 3 of the Chupadera Mesa EIS RPS found in this document.

RANGELAND IMPROVEMENTS

The SRA committed $2,175 for the completion of one rangeland improvement during FY 1988. The allottee contributed $2,600 in the form of labor and materials toward the constructon of these projects. The funding was used to complete:

2.0 miles of fence.

The following improvements have been proposed for constructon in FY 1989:

3.6 miles of pipeline,
5.7 miles of fence.

MULTIPLE-USE MANAGEMENT

WILDLIFE

The SRA's Wildlife Program is continuing to evaluate past projects within the Pelona/Horse Mountain HMP Area by monitoring browse utilizaton on permanently established transects.

WATERSHED

As part of the SRA's Watershed Program, a watershed rehabilitation plan was developed

for the Chavez Draw watershed area. Other accomplishments of the Program for FY 1988 include updating the water-use program.

FISCAL YEAR 1989

The BLM will continue to collect monitoring data on the 25 "I" category allotments. The objectives and goals set for these allotments as a result of the allotment evaluations will be monitored in 3 years to see if the actions proposed are accomplishing the purpose intended, or if any changes are necessary.

AMP supervision, implementation, and revision may also be accomplished on some allotments during the year. This will be based on the workload and the set priorities.

SUMMARY OF FORAGE CONDITIONS FOR FY 1988

Moisture conditions were favorable during the year. Winter moisture was above normal and contributed to the production of forbs in the early spring. Spring and summer moisture was also above normal and contributed to the increase in production of warm season grasses and other forage species.

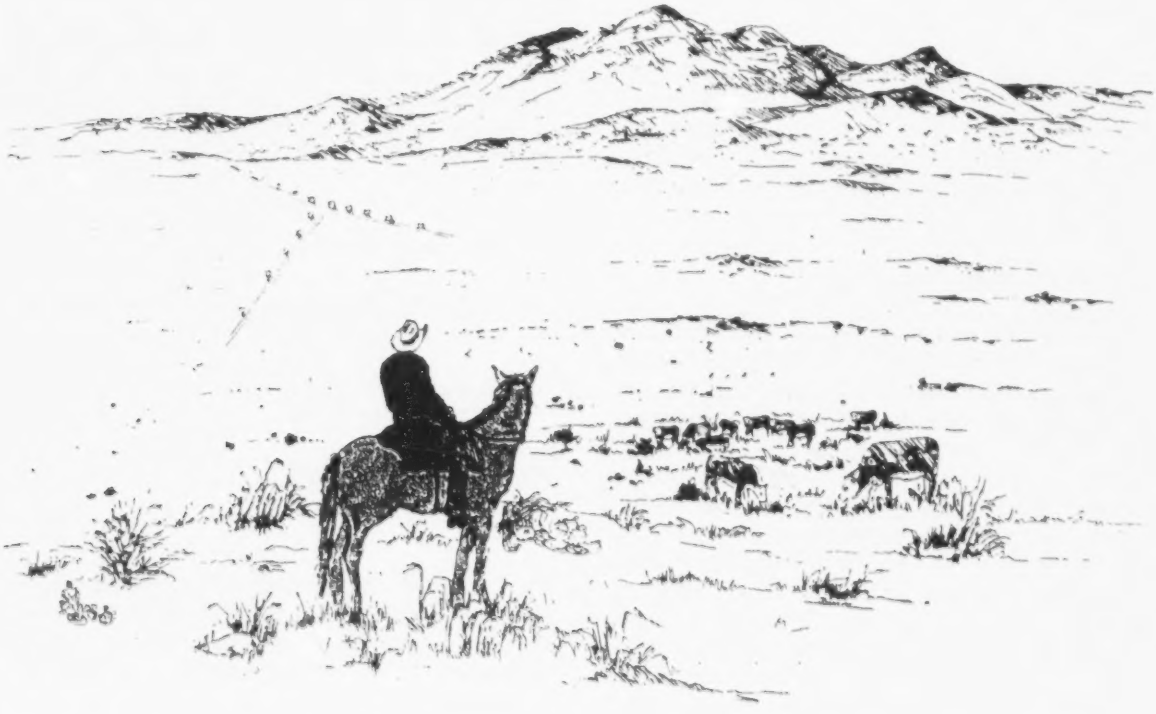


Table III-5

Summary of Actions for West Socorro Category Improve ("I") Allotments

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Preference AUMs	Present Category	Utilization (%)	Trend	Condition	Other
0010	Kellog Canyon	2,448	I				
0011	Orona Community	1,248	I				
0012	Kellog Canyon	144	I				
0021	San Igancio Creek	960	I				
0025	Cow Springs	1,332	I				
0028	Y Ranch	3,993	I				
0031	Arroyo Baca	111	M	29	static/improving	high/fair	Contains 448 acres public land
0032	Adobe	7,020	I				
0041	Richard M. Chavez	360	M	45	improving	good	
0043	Zuni Plateau	8,840	I				
0051	Emery	836	I				
0053	Lynch Ranch	1,764	I				
0056	HQ	2,340	I				
0060	Leandro Well	508	I				
0077	Emery	96	M	26	static	high/fair	Contains 960 acres public land
0079	Stokes Flat	2,400	M	37	static/improving	good	
0081	Lynch Ranch	2,100	I				
0084	Paul Lund	204	I				
0085	Patterson Canyon	192	M	12	static	good	Most of land inaccessible to livestock
0088	Mariano Mesa	96	I				
0089	Leandro Well	18	I				
0094	Escondido Creek	1,488	I				
0098	Chavez Ranch	70	M	33	static/improving	fair	Contains 440 acres public land
0099	F. Orona	420	I				
0100	Gatlin Lake	576	M	40	improving	good	
0101	Chihuahua Lake	2,364	I				
0110	W. Horse Mountain	672	I				
0111	E. Horse Mountain	240	I				
0112	Herman Sanchez	312	M	43	improving	fair	
0116	Spring Canyon	514	I				
0126	Limestone Canyon	1,695	I				
0136	Silver Creek	1,284	I				
0145	Hale Well	288	I				
0151	Montoya	156	M	26	improving	fair	
0166	Olguin Draw	120	M				
0167	HQ	96	M				

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